(c) the number of telephones installed till date; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to simplify the procedure of sanctioning and installation of telephones?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) During the current year about 7086 telephone connections have been sanctioned on the basis of recommendations of Members of Parliament.

(c) and (d) The exact number of telephone connections installed by field units out of the above sanctions, is not readily available. However, the field units have already been instructed to install all telephone connections on priority subject to technical feasibility and other departmental formalities.

Illegal domestic and international telephone calls

151. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and other major cities make illegal domestic and international telephone calls by bribing the telecom officials;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in this process some unsuspecting subscribers and Government have suffered losses;

(c) if so, what action Government have taken or propose to take against such corrupt officials; and

(d) what remedial action Government propose to take in respect of the losses suffered by unsuspecting subscribers due to these corrupt practice?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The department has taken notice of the complaints published in the newspapers alleging that some persons are indulging in the malpractice of illegal international calls.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Vigilance Monitoring has been stepped up. Officials of the Telecom. Department found to be indulging in such malpractices are dealt with under the disciplinary rules.

(d) A committee has been set up in suggest Modifications to the Indian Telegraph Act with a view to provide for deterrent penalties for such offenders.

Development of fisheries

152. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to speed up the development of fisheries in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that World Bank has agreed to provide financial assistance for the purpose;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) the number of such projects likely to be located in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A World Bank Appraisal Mission visited India during June-July, 1991 and appraised a Shrimp and Fish culture project for implementation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal from 1992-93 onwards for a period of 7 years. The Project envisages:

(i) development of 3810 ha. brackish water land in Andhra Pradesh,

Orissa and West Bengal for Shrimp Farming;

(ii) development of about 45000 ha. small reservoirs in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh and about 6000 ha. Ox-bow lakes in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for Fish Farming;

at an estimated cost of Rs. 273 crore. The project will be negotiated with World Bank for approval during the last week of November, 1991.

(d) This project does not cover Madhya Pradesh.

Youth camp at Aizawal, Mizoram

153. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Youth Hostels Association of India recently organised a youth camp at Aizawal, Mizoram to enable the participants know the Mizo way of life; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to organise more youth camps from various Universities/Colleges places in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes Sir. 275 participants from 16 States were benefited the camp and have learnt about the history, culture and way of life of Mizoram by direct interaction.

(b) Yes, Sir. Proposals received in the Department from various agencies to organise youth camps are examined and approved every year. NSS, Bharat Scouts & Guides, Youth Hostels Association of India, State Governments and Voluntary Organisations have been conducting on an average about 200 such National Integration Camps every year all over the country, with grants-in-aid from this Department. It is proposed to increase substantially these programmes during the next Plan period 1990-97.

Privatisation of Telecom services

154. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "Telecom services may be privatised' which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 9th November, 1991; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No proposal for handing over of Telephone services to private sector in bigger cities and towns on experimental basis has yet been condered.

Regarding Franchising of Value Added Services, the Department is making indepth study of the issue for further action.

Loss of Foodgrain in the country

155. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the stages and the percentage of post-harvest losses of foodgrains in the country;

(b) what are the various measures taken by Government so far to disseminate the modern techniques to provide efficient storage management at farm level to prevent foodgrains losses and what are the results achieved; and